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INSTRUCTIONS

FOR THE USE OF

FARRIERS

ATTACHED TO THE

BRITISH CAVALRY,

AND TO THE

HONOURABLE BOARD OF ORDNANCE.



LONDON:

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INSTRUCTIONS

FOR THE

T A R K I E S

ATTACHED

BRITISH CAVILL

AND TO THE

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE USE OF
FARRIERS
IN
REGIMENTS OF CAVALRY.



B

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR THE USE OF

FARRIERS

REGIMENT OF CAVALRY





Inflammation of the Eyes.

12. 8. 09.

SYMPTOMS.—When the eyes are inflamed, the eye-lids are generally swelled and in part closed, the haw is drawn over one half of the eye, and the tears flow over the face.

REMEDIES.—Three or four quarts of blood should be taken from the neck, and repeated in two or three days, if requisite; half an ounce of the Febrifuge powder (No. 1) may be given every day for three, four, or five days, and the temples blistered. Long continued exercise is of the first consequence. The haw is never to be removed.

N. B. When any of the medicines are given as a drink, they must be mixed with water.

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Inflammation of the Chest.

SYMPTOMS.—The breathing is always quick, the tongue dry, and rather white in the middle; and the horse never lies down.

This disease is sometimes attended with a cough.

TREATMENT.—Keep the horse in a stable moderately warm, covered with two or three cloths, or, what is better, sheep-skins; give him warm mashes, and water-gruel, slightly warm. If however he refuse warm fluids, let him drink them cold.

Half an ounce of Febrifuge powder (No. 1) should be given twice in the day, for four or five days.

Bleeding very largely is of the first importance. Not less than three or

four quarts of blood should be taken away the first time, and repeated in four or six hours, if the symptoms be not relieved.

Two or three rowels should be immediately made; one opposite the chest in front, the other two under the chest. If the disease be violent, apply the actual cautery to the sides.

TREATMENT.—Take away five quarts of blood, and repeat the operation, if not relieved, every four hours, during the first twelve. Apply two rowels under the belly; likewise the actual cautery; and let his belly be covered with five or six sheep-skins. Give glysters of warm water, six or seven quarts in quantity, every two hours, but abstain from all medicine internally.

Inflammation of the Intestines.

SYMPTOMS.—This disease is manifested by the horse striking his belly with his hind legs, frequently lying down, and then rising up immediately; the pulse is hard and frequent.

TREATMENT.—Take away five quarts of blood, and repeat the operation, if not relieved, every four hours, during the first twelve. Apply two rowels under the belly, likewise the actual cautery; and let his belly be covered with five or six sheepskins. Give clysters of warm water, six or seven quarts in quantity, every two hours, but abstain from all medicines internally.

*Spasms of the Intestines called
Gripes.*

SYMPTOMS.—The symptoms of this disease are very similar to inflammation of the bowels, but the pulse is not so hard, and in addition to striking his belly, and lying down, he frequently attempts to *lie on his back*, and *rolls*.

TREATMENT.—Take away four quarts of blood, and give two ounces of the balls (to remove gripes), (No. 2) and repeat the dose every two hours, until the symptoms abate. Apply cloths or sheep-skins to the abdomen, and give frequent and large clysters of warm water.

Inflammation of the Feet.

SYMPTOMS.—When the feet are inflamed, the horse is always shifting his legs, standing first on one fore foot, and then on the other, or lies down. This disease rarely attacks the hind feet.

TREATMENT.—Take away four quarts of blood from the vein on the inside of the arm, and immerse his feet frequently in warm water. A rowel may be placed in the chest.

Give two drachms of the laxative powder (No. 3) every twenty-four hours, until it purge. Then omit the powder for four days; and, if necessary, repeat both bleeding and purging.

The crust should be rasped, and the sole thinned.

Inflammation of the Kidnies.

SYMPTOMS.—This disease is known by the horse making very little water, by his hind legs being separated wide, and pain being expressed from pressure applied to the loins.

TREATMENT.—Abstain from all diuretics; take away four or five quarts of blood; give frequent clysters, but very little water to drink. Two drachms of the laxative powder (No. 3) may be given every forty hours until it purge.

If the symptoms be violent, apply the actual cautery over the loins, but on no account blister the part.

Recent Strains and Bruises.

SYMPTOMS.—When any part is strained or bruised by blows or other accidents, it has generally a greater degree of heat than the contiguous parts, and is more or less swelled. If it happen to the legs, the horse is usually lame.

REMEDIES.—Should the disease be violent, take away three or four quarts of blood, and give four drachms of the Febrifuge powder (No. 1) every twenty-four hours for three or four days.

If the horse stale considerably, omit the powder for a few days; and then, if necessary, begin as before. Abstain from hot oils of every de-

scription ; foment the part three times in the day for one hour, with cloths four times doubled, moistened with hot water. If the disease be confined to the legs, employ also a narrow bandage four yards in length, kept constantly wet with warm water.

*Gun-shot and other recent
Wounds.*

IN gun-shot wounds, attempt gently to remove the ball, but do not make large or deep incisions for that purpose; and never apply balsams, or oils of any sort. When a fresh wound is made by a cutting instrument, bring the edges as near each other as possible. The part should be fomented with warm water, and, if the swelling be considerable, apply a poultice, and take away four quarts of blood.

Poultices cannot be made *too large*, and may be composed of bran boiled for an hour in water, to a proper consistence. They should be renewed twice in the day.

If the injury be violent, give two drachms of the laxative powder (No. 3), and repeat the dose every six and thirty hours, until the animal purge; then omit the powder for three or four days after it has operated, and, if necessary, repeat it as before. Should the wound degenerate into a troublesome sore, sprinkle a small quantity of astringent powder (No. 4, prescribed for Grease) on the part twice a day.

Staggers.

SYMPTOMS.—When this disease first makes its appearance, the animal is generally very much disposed to sleep, and while standing his head nearly approaches the ground; this is commonly called sleeping staggers. If this complaint is not soon removed, it becomes more violent, and the horse continually attempts to run round, and is in a state of high delirium; this is called mad staggers, but is the same disease *in kind*, differing only in degree.

TREATMENT.—The horse should lose at least four quarts of blood, and repeated every four hours during the first twelve, if the symptoms be not

relieved. The top of the head should be blistered (the hair being first cut close), one ounce and half of the laxative powder (No. 3) should be given immediately, or even two ounces, if the horse be large. The hair should be cut off from the hoof to the fetlock joints, and boiling water poured on the part; this should be repeated twice in the day. Clysters of warm water and salt should be given every two hours (one pound of salt to five quarts of water).

If the horse do not purge in thirty-six hours after the first powder has been given, repeat the dose, as before.

Two rowels should be placed under his belly.

Coughs and Colds.

SYMPTOMS.—Are well known.

TREATMENT.—Give six drachms of Febrifuge powder (No. 1) every twenty-four hours, for three or four days; and, if the chest do not appear inflamed, apply a large blister under the throat, and take away three or four quarts of blood.

If the blood appear on the surface to be of the colour of buff (in this and every other disease), the operation should be repeated. Give warm mashes, and apply warm clothing.



Grease.

SYMPTOMS.—In this disease the skin of the heels is swelled, inflamed, and cracked; which generally terminates in producing a very offensive matter. It more frequently attacks the hind than the fore legs, and the horse is very lame on moving in the stable.

TREATMENT.—The leg should be placed in warm water for one hour daily, and a large bran poultice applied for six or seven days by itself; then sprinkle over the part the astringent powder (No. 4), and continue the poultice as before; give also two drachms of the alterative powder (No. 5) every third or fourth morning, for ten days or a fortnight.

Should the legs be much swelled, give also one ounce and half of the diuretic balls (No. 6); and apply a rowel on the inside of each thigh.

After all inflammation and discharge is removed, if the legs continue to be enlarged, apply the actual cautery; but in every instance, where this operation is performed, the lines must be made *perpendicularly*, and narrow; observe also that the iron is applied superficially, and never suffered to pass through the skin.

During the whole progress of this disease, the horse should have walking exercise for three or four hours in the day.

Thrushes.

SYMPTOMS.—By the term Thrush is meant a discharge of matter from the cleft in the frog.

TREATMENT.—Apply a small quantity of the *Thrush* astringent powder (No. 7) between the cleft of the frog, twice in the day. If the disease be violent the horse should stand without shoes on the pavement for a few days, in order to bring the frog in contact with the ground.

The whole frog may also be washed with salt water, or salt and water.

Glanders.

SYMPTOMS.—In Glanders there is always an increased discharge from the nostrils, which in different horses is of various colours, as white, yellow, green, and bloody; and sometimes all these colours may be seen in the same horse at different periods of the disease. The extremity of the nostrils is generally covered with a thick coagulated substance like glue, and on inspecting the membrane, within the nostrils, we generally find it inflamed, with one or more ulcers or holes: under the jaw, on the same side, we frequently observe a swelling of the glands, which are also inflamed. The appetite and health in many cases

continue unimpaired. Sometimes, however, it affects both, and the discharge is very offensive; at other times scarcely any unpleasant effluvia can be observed. Where the appearances correspond to the symptoms we have described, it is in vain to attempt a cure; and to prevent contagion, the animal should be shot, and the head buried several feet under ground.

When a horse has any discharge from his nostrils, of whatever quality, it is advisable to keep him as separate from the rest as possible. The halter, and every thing about the horse, should have no connexion with other horses. It is moreover of great consequence that he be watered with a pail by himself; and should it turn out to be the glanders, the

rack, the manger, &c. should be first well washed with soft soap and water; and afterwards covered with a thick coat of lime and lize.

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Farcy.

SYMPTOMS.—The Farcy always attacks the skin. It very generally begins on the inside of the thighs, and appears in the form of a small bud or tumour, which, at the commencement of the disease, is frequently painful, but during the progress, and especially in the latter stages of this complaint, they are often insensible, even to the actual cautery.—The legs are generally much swelled, and sometimes it terminates in glanders.

TREATMENT.—The horse should be made to sweat profusely by exercise at least once in the day. The part should be fired in straight lines;

and one drachm of the alterative powder (No. 5) may be given every third morning, for two or three weeks. Should the powder purge, it must be omitted for three or four days.

Treatment.—The horse should be made to sweat profusely by exercise at least once in the day. The part should be fixed in straight lines;

Hidebound.

SYMPTOMS.—The animal is always barren of flesh, the coat rough, and the skin seems as if it were almost glued to the ribs.

TREATMENT.—Give one drachm of the alterative powder (No. 5) every morning until it gently purge. When this effect has taken place, omit the medicine for four or five days, and then proceed as before. The diet should be good, and the horse have as much walking exercise as possible.

Worms and Bots.

SYMPTOMS.—The animal is generally, but not always, out of condition, a small quantity of yellow powder is frequently seen near the anus, and sometimes the worms or bots are observed about this part, and in the dung.

TREATMENT.—Give one drachm of the vermifuge powder (No. 8) every morning until it purge. Then omit the medicine for four or five days, and if necessary proceed as before.

The Treatment of Horses in Camp.

Horses that are encamped have frequently an inclination to eat sand and common earth, if not prevented by muzzles. * And when this appetite is indulged large balls are sometimes formed in the small intestines, so as to obstruct the passage of the fæces, and occasion death. To obviate the effects of this disease, when any horse is perceived to eat earth, give him two drachms of the laxative powder (No. 3), and repeat the dose every six and thirty hours until it purge.

*The Treatment of Horses in
Quarters, returned from
Camp or Grass.*

HORSES that come into quarters, either from grass or camp, should begin to take one drachm of the laxative powder (No. 3) every other morning until it purge.

The stable should for the first ten days or a fortnight be kept as cool as possible, in order to prevent any sudden change of temperature. If great attention be paid to this circumstance, it will contribute more to prevent greafe, colds, coughs, and various other diseases, than any medicine whatever. For although most horses will be healthy in any determined

degree of temperature ; yet we know it to be impossible for any animal to feel the severity of winter one day, and the heat of summer the next, without producing disease. The great object therefore is to take care that the heat of the stable be increased as gradually as possible, and that it differ *at first* but little from the natural air.

This can be very easily effected by keeping all the doors, windows, &c. opened.

Actual Cautery.

THE Actual Cautery (commonly called firing) is eminently serviceable in spavins, splents, ring-bones, wind-galls, and curbs. But the lines should be made narrow and perpendicular; and never suffered to pass through the skin. If the inflammation be not sufficient in about ten days after the operation (but not before), blister the part.



The Principles and Practice of Shoeing.

WE find that the fore feet of all horses before they have been shod are as wide from heel to heel as they are long; that is, the bottom of the foot approaches to a circle. The simple intention of shoeing is to preserve the hoof *in the same state*: we cannot improve the original healthy form, which nature has made; and that practice must be pernicious, and highly absurd, that alters it.

To ascertain whether this principle has been attended to, and the foot preserved unaltered, we have only occasion to examine the hoofs of those horses that have been shod. It will



then be observed that nearly in proportion to the *repetition of shoeing*, the foot deviates from a circle, and becomes oblong; indeed many feet from this cause are not one third, and some not even one fourth, as wide as long. Age, however, has no effect in changing the *form*; for we have been able to restore many very old horses feet, and preserve others in their natural figure; but as the common destructive practice of shoeing is more or less repeated, the heels will generally be more or less diminished.

This contraction, which usually terminates in lameness, is not the only disease arising from improper shoes, for thrushes are frequently, and *corns always*, produced by the same cause.

It becomes then an object of importance to inquire what is the prac-

tice that occasions such effects, and what are the means best adapted to prevent them.

The common shoe is made thicker at the heel than the toe, broad in the web, externally convex, and four nails placed in each quarter of the crust nearly opposite. This I say is almost the universal shoe of this country; and the manner of cutting the hoof corresponds exactly in intention and in effect with the shoe itself. The first parts of the hoof removed by the buttress are generally the frog and bars. The frog is a convex, insensible elastic body, placed in the centre of the heel, of a wedge-like form, pointed towards the toe, but expanded as it advances to the heel. Its use is that of preventing the animal from

flipping, at the same time acting as a spring, by expanding the heels, and supporting part of his weight. The Bars are two in number, placed at the side of the frog; they form part of the crust at the heels, and act as props to prevent the heels from contraction. As all these parts are usually first cut away before the shoe is put on, it is very evident what must be the consequence when the shoe we have described is applied.

In the first place, the shoe being made thick at the heel, and the frog taken away, this part of the foot cannot generally come in contact with the ground. Nevertheless it will sometimes be struck with a projecting stone, and this occasional blow on a part that has been pared produces in-

inflammation and discharge, known by the name of *Thrush*. And as the frog cannot act as a stop, as a spring to the animal, or support any part of his weight, without embracing the ground, *all these functions are lost*. The bars also being removed, the heels must necessarily become narrow.

But what contributes as much to contract the heels, as the removal of the bars and frog, is the form of the shoe and the situation of the nails.

It should however first be observed, that the crust grows from the coronet downward, and in its descent becomes wider, so that the bottom of the hoof is nearly one third wider than the top. When therefore the natural growth is not impeded, and the crust has descended one inch in depth, the bottom

of the foot has increased about half an inch in breadth. While the hoof is thus growing and expanding, two fixed points are made by the four nails placed in each quarter of the crust: instead of the foot now growing obliquely wider, it is obliged in a great degree to obey the eight nails, so that when the crust has descended in depth one inch, and ought to have increased half an inch in breadth, it has descended one inch, but nearly of the same diameter. Moreover, from the thickness of the shoe at the quarters, the power of expanding the heels by the action of the frog, and all its other functions, are suspended.

As we have pointed out some of the disadvantages of the common shoe, and the evils arising from cutting the foot improperly, we shall now

proceed to describe the practice that we have found by experience most successful in keeping the foot healthy, and preserving its form unimpaired by shoeing. The only part that we think of cutting with the buttress is the *toe of the hoof*. This requires to be shortened once in every five and twenty or thirty days, but no part of the heel should be touched. If the heels are too high we find it better to wear them down by coming in contact with the ground, to cutting them with an instrument. For this purpose we employ a short shoe, very thin at the heel, narrow in the web, concave externally, and the nail holes made in the toe. With this shoe we avoid contracted feet, we prevent and even cure thrushes, and avoid the pos-

fibility of corns. These are three diseases very obstinate in their nature, and difficult of cure; and it certainly must be admitted to be an object of some importance to prevent them.

This shoe can be employed on horses of every description that have *high heels and good frogs*; and if it happen in the month of May or June, when the ground is dry, it may generally be continued during the whole summer. But when the ground is wet, the horn becomes altered in its texture, and is liable to wear away in a greater degree at bottom than it grows at top. When this takes place we apply a longer shoe, but made in every other respect like the short shoe. The heels of the long shoe are made to rest on the *junction* of the bars

with the crust; and in order to prevent any improper pressure from the shoe, the sole *between* the bars and crust is removed by a drawing knife, so as to be made concave. This will be seen in the pattern hoofs. When this shoe is worn out we shorten the toe, but remove no part of the heels, and then apply a long shoe as before. By pursuing this system for four, five, or six months, the heels will certainly be sufficiently high to employ the short shoe. But it is probable there are many horses, at this time, that have been so long shod on the old system, that some danger might be incurred by employing all at once either the one or the other without some preparation. Nevertheless I have no hesitation in saying that,

however old the horse, however absurd the shoe, however low the heel, there is no foot that cannot in a few months be made to wear the long thin heeled shoe with great advantage; and no foot but what will admit the short shoe during the year. The only precaution necessary is to begin the practice *gradually*.

As we find that almost every hoof grows more than one tenth of an inch in depth every month, we have only occasion to make the next shoes one tenth thinner at the heels, and remove no part of the hoof except the toe, and then the absolute height of the foot will be the same as when the horse was last shod. The next time, when the heels are grown one tenth more, or any given degree, we thin the heels

of the shoe in the same proportion ;
and continue to pursue this system
until we can employ a shoe like the
pattern.

After we have arrived to this de-
gree of perfection, we are still to pre-
serve the frog, the bars, and heels ;
and when the latter are grown to an
inconvenient depth, we leave off the
long to employ the short shoe, as be-
fore directed.

12. 8. 09.

THE END.



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